

Did you know...



Reading books together can open the door to new countries, new foods, new traditions, and new languages. Explore the world while sitting on your couch. Read as a family!

If your home language isn't English, it's important to speak, read, and sing to your child in the language you speak at home. If children learn the basics of speech in the language of their home, it makes it easier to learn English as they grow older. It's important that the culture of your native country is maintained. Children may switch words from both languages for a while, but they'll soon sort it out.

If your home language is English, consider teaching your child some simple words in sign language or another language you want to try. It's easier to learn a language when you are a young child than as an adult, and it will help them in this very diverse world we live in.

Here's how...



- ★ Check out books from the library that use phrases from different languages, such as *Say Hello!* by Rachel Isadora.
- ★ Learn more about your family history and start a new tradition from a country that your family comes from. Example: make German pancakes for dinner one night.
- ★ Check with your library to see if they are doing a Día de los niños (Children's Day) activity this month. Día is celebrated on April 30 in communities across the United States.

Read



American Babies by The Global Fund for Children



Young children never grow tired of looking at photos of other children. *American Babies* shares the joy of children all across America.

The Global Fund for Children supports programs that help needy children all over the world. Here are more Global Fund for Children books:



Choosing Books



Celebrating Children and Diversity:

It is important for children to see themselves in books.

Buenos Dias Baby! by Libby Ellis

Fiesta Babies, by Carmen Tafolla

¡Libro!/Book! by Kristine O'Connell George

Te Amo, Bebé, Little One, by Lisa Wheeler

Ten Tiny Babies, by Karen Katz





As you share books with your child, talk about the children on the pages. Ask where their eyes are, their hands... let your child see that even though the children in the books may have different hair or skin color, they all have the same body parts, and someone who loves them.

Write



Let your toddler lay on her back on the sidewalk or porch, and trace her body with a piece of sidewalk chalk. Help her color in her hair, face, clothes. Writing with chalk is a good way to develop finger muscles, and it washes away!

Play

**Rhyme for Babies**

Say this rhyme with your face close to baby's:

Hello, hello, I love you very much.

Hello, hello, my fingers they can touch.

Hello, hello, I'll touch your little nose.

(touch baby's nose)

Hello, hello, I'll kiss your little nose.

(kiss baby's nose)

Repeat with baby's eyes, ears, cheek, lips

Action Rhyme for Toddlers

On my face I have a nose (*point to nose*),

And way down here I have 10 toes (*touch toes*).

I have two eyes that I can blink (*blink eyes*),

I have a head to help me think (*hands on head*).

I have a chin and very near (*point to chin*),

I have two ears to help me hear (*hands on ears*).

I have a mouth I use to speak (*point to mouth*),

And when I run, I use my feet (*run in place*).

**It's a Small World**

It's a world of laughter,

A world of tears.

It's a world of hopes,

And a world of fears.

There's so much that we share

That it's time we're aware;

It's a small world after all!

Chorus: It's a small world after all.

It's a small world after all.

It's a small world after all.

It's a small, small world.

There is just one moon

And one golden sun,

And a smile means

Friendship to every one.

Though the mountains divide,

And the oceans are wide,

It's a small world after all!

Repeat Chorus



*By Robert and Richard Sherman,
1964*

At your library...

Your librarian can help you find books in other languages at the public library, get them on loan from other Idaho libraries, or help you access them online.